

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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18 May 1979

## Memorandum for the Record

Subject: Senior Review Panel Meeting with NFIB

1. On 9 May 1979, the DCI introduced the Senior Review Panel to the ~~members~~ of NFIB at the Intelligence Community Headquarters. After presenting the SRP members individually, Admiral Turner asked the DD/NFA to comment on their mission and accomplishments to date.

2. Dr. Bowie began by stating that the SRP's major role was to advise him on national intelligence production and to make suggestions for improving its quality and usefulness. He said that the SRP had so far commented on some 12 NIEs, 3 SNIEs, and 12 IIMs. Their comments had been helpful to him personally, excellent in quality, and had been delivered quickly.

3. Admiral Turner said that he wanted to emphasize that the SRP was not to be regarded as a delaying element in the production process of interagency estimates, and asked Dr. Bowie to comment on the wider role of the SRP in the Community.

4. Dr. Bowie expressed the view that it would be important for the SRP to become acquainted with the other members of NFIB, seeking views on intelligence production to see whether the product was meeting the needs of policy-makers for whom it was intended.

5. Admiral Turner underlined these comments adding that the members of the SRP were independent and objective, that each of them had had a distinguished career and had risen to the top of his profession, and that he wanted them to be both "independent and ornery." He noted there was a fine line the SRP must walk. They had to be sufficiently involved in the process to understand its problems, but not so closely associated with the product that they become its defenders or advocates. He expected the Panel to be open, critical, and independent in their recommendations.

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6. Admiral Turner then asked if any NFIB members had any comments or questions. The Treasury representative said that he welcomed the formation of the SRP and that he hoped they could visit the Treasury for talks with some of the policy officials and senior analysts there. He said he thought the Panel could perform an important role in stimulating increased contacts between these two groups. The NRO representative volunteered he would be glad to have the SRP in for a discussion of their collection programs and resources. Admiral Turner endorsed the usefulness of such contact.

7. Admiral Turner asked if the SRP would like to make any comments. [ ] began by saying that he was the newest member and not yet fully knowledgeable of the entire Community but that he found the job challenging and rewarding, even fun. [ ] said that he also was glad to be a member of the SRP, and that while he recognized there were problems with the estimative process and some controversy over the usefulness of current estimates, he was impressed with the talent available in NFAC and within the Community, and thought that much high quality work was being done. Ambassador Leonhart expressed the appreciation of the SRP for the opportunity to meet with the members of NFIB; suggested that the common problem for them all was whether the production was a useful and useable as it could be made for the policymakers and for the Community, and said that the Panel members much looked forward to individual talks with those present.

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8. The NFIB meeting then went into executive session.



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William Leonhart

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